

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD  
MINUTES

\*\*\*\*\*

Date: April 17, 2019  
Time: 7:00pm  
Place: Town Hall  
Egremont

Present at the table were Chairman Turner, Vice-Chairman McGurn, Selectman Brazie.

Others in attendance: Steve Cohen, Hanna Shirley(Berkshire Record), Chuck Ogden, Paul Montgomery, Paul Calabro, Marj Wexler, Lucinda Vermeulen, Charlie Proctor, Adam Chait, Mary MacGurn, Nataha Antona, Erik Josephson, Rebecca Kalb and one unidentified person.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the April 3 and April 10 meetings were accepted as presented.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

At 7:03pm the Chairman called to order the hearing for pole locations on Shun Toll Road and Boice Road as requested by Adam Chait of Fiber Connect. The new poles are to hold his fiber optic cable for Broadband. The hearing closed at 7:09pm. The Board voted unanimously to approve the 5 pole location requests as presented.

The Board interviewed Natasha Antona for the position of part-time Police Officer. Consideration of an appointment for Ms. Antona will take place at the May 1 meeting.

The Board interviewed Jason LaForest for the position of Police Chief. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Jason LaForest effective July 1, 2019 and begin contract negotiations. He was to attend the Annual Town Meeting on May 7 so he can be introduced to the Town.

CITIZEN'S TIME:

Charles Proctor, speaking on behalf of the South Egremont Congregational Church board, withdrew the article gifting the church to the Town. This article will be removed from the Warrant.

Charles Proctor said he has been given some firewood to replace the trees taken from his property.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board awarded the bid for the ADA upgrades at the South Egremont Village School to Galvin & Sons Masonry & Construction for the price of \$89,200, contingent upon funding being approved at the May 7 Annual Town Meeting.

As the Town moved forward with the broadband build out, borrowing under the authorization approved on May 5, 2015 may need to take place soon. If expenditures are made in FY 2019 the town will need to borrow.

The Board accepted with regret, gratitude and well wishes the resignation of Ken Knox as one of the Town's School Committee members. Danile Jordan, who has been active with the South Egremont School, has expressed her interest in serving. The appointment will be made on May 1 jointly with the remaining School Committee member. The appointee will serve until the November 2020 election.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Rolfe Tessem and Jeff Lazarus will begin negotiations with Fiber Connect regarding the town funded broadband build out in the very near future.

It seems the School District is still waiting for appropriate weather to begin the lead paint remediation at the South Egremont School House.

Special Counsel has expressed the opinion that the school agreement amendment cannot be effective for FY 2020 as the deadline for certifying assessments to town's is April 30.

The driveway for the affordable housing project is under construction. The moving of the homes has been delayed until September because there is a delay in the HUD funding process. An extension of up to a year can be given for the small housing choice grant funds for the septic system.

The Alford broadband engineer is moving forward and has been talking with residents on Whites Hill Road. The Town will ask if the Alford engineer can do the engineering work for the Mount Washington Road residents.

The Town will contact MassDOT to see where the plans are at for the Route 23/41 reconstruction.

#### SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

Vice-Chairman McGurn told the Board that at the May 1 meeting the Compensation Committee will present the idea of not filing the Personnel Director position but instead forming an HR Committee consisting of himself, Laura Allen and Chuck Ogden. The current Director has agreed to help beyond his retirement date if needed.

#### BUDGET REVIEW/TOWN MEETING PLANNING:

The Board approved and signed the Special Town Meeting warrant for May 7 at 6:30pm. The warrant contains 3 articles: \$7,500 in wages for the Water Department, stopping negotiations with Charter/Spectrum (this has already been done so is a mute point but was petitioned), reformatting of the General Bylaws.

The Board made some edits to articles on the May 7 Annual Town Meeting warrant. Wages increases will be 2.75% for non-exempt personnel and 3.3% for exempt personnel. The warrant will be ready for signing on Friday, April 19 and will be posted and out to the public no later than Monday, April 22,

Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.

Mary Brazie,  
Office Administrator

minutes.19/apr17

*The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.*